



July 2009 diary

Seven cygnets – where are they now?



Having brought in experts to weigh and check the health of our swans – including placing identity tags on their legs – the birds then moved themselves to a bigger lake on Howick Estate. To be fair the pond at Lee Moor is small, and I guess as this moving on after a month or so has happened with two sets of swans (this year and in 2007), it is clear that it is good as an incubator pond but not suitable for weaning. This is despite the feeding with bread by the tenants, and the fact that in 2007 the five remaining swans did all fledge once they were back here. The key thing is that they prosper, along with the barn and tawny owl chicks that have also been born at Lee Moor this spring/summer.

Twitter/Facebook

I have been helped for many years in pulling together this website by Emma Chapman and I'm very grateful for that. Recently I have also become more interested in the role that Twitter and Facebook can play in business and social networking.

[Lee Moor has a page on Facebook](#) and also, thanks to Helen Sanderson who has designed and implemented our Twitter strategy, a presence on twitter: <http://twitter.com/LeeMoorFarm>

Please do interact and place photos on so it comes alive.

Doggy Daycare arrives at Lee Moor

A new business, [Happy Hounds](#), has set up at Low Hocket – the buildings just off the Lee Moor Business Park road. Anne Dunn has an excellent reputation and is providing an excellent service for both locals and tourists alike. The Alnwick garden does not allow dogs, and on a hot day to have a cool kennel available a few minutes away is a far better option than leaving a dog in a car and worrying about its welfare. Anne is also carrying out dog grooming and we all wish her well with her new business.

Flood defence

The dog club at Lee Moor suffered some flooding of its sand surface in July, and although the flooding was not as bad as the year before it still created extra work for them. As that is the low point within the buildings we need to work out how to avoid such damage in the future. The two incidents have been extreme, but then climate change means that these events are going to happen on a more regular basis.

Boxing clever

Pete Mannion has expanded the [New Life gym](#) again, this time into boxing and other martial arts. He has carpeted a significant area – 200 square metres. I wish Pete well with this new venture: there is no like facility between Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Pete is organising a day of fun on September 5th in aid of [HospiceCare North Northumberland](#):

- Dog display
- Face painting
- Car boot sale
- 'Big Lad' clothing
- Falconry display
- Tractor pull

More details will follow!

Bong... 700 years not out!

The Percy family has owned land in the Alnwick area around the castle since 1309. As a farming tenant and business park manager I represented Lee Moor at the celebration to mark that happy anniversary. In a recession it is easy to look short term but in their 700 years of operation I'm sure this downturn is seen as the blip that it is! Thanks to the Estate and Percy Family for putting on the event, I particularly enjoyed the dodgems!!

Ian